

NASA Signs International Agreements

NASA Administrator Daniel Goldin signed two international agreements last week with South American countries.

Goldin and Brazilian Space Agency President, Dr. Luiz Gylvan Meira, Oct. 14, signed an implementing arrangement providing for the design, development, operation and use of Brazilian developed flight equipment and payloads for the International Space Station. Under this arrangement, the Brazilian space Agency (AEB) will provide for use on the Space Station a Technology Experiment Facility, for providing long-term exposure to the space environment for active and passive experiments, and an Expedite the Processing of Experiments to Space Station pallet which will serve as an interface mechanism to attach small payloads to U.S. truss segments of the Space Station. In exchange of AEB-provided equipment and support, NASA will provide Brazil with access to its Space Station facilities on-orbit, as well as a flight opportunity for one Brazilian astronaut during the course of the Space Station program.

Goldin and Dr. Conrado Franco Varotto, Executive Director of the Argentina National Commission on Space Activities (CONAE) signed a

memoranda of understanding, Oct. 18, on the Satellite de Aplicaciones Cientificas (SAC)-C and (SAC)-A.

SAC-C will conduct correlative observations of the Earth of interest to Argentina and the United States.

SAC-A will be launched as a hitchhiker payload from the Space Shuttle cargo bay in 1998 on the STS-88 mission, which also is the first Space Station assembly mission. .

Facilities Contract Awarded

NASA has selected H&H Consolidated, Inc., of Arab, AL, for award of a \$25.6 million facilities operations and maintenance contract at the Wallops Flight Facility. This performance-based, cost plus award fee contract is for a period of one year effective Oct. 1 with four one-year options.

Services provided under this contract will include plumbing, electrical and mechanical support for all facilities and equipment located at Wallops. The contractor also will provide stand-by and remote off-site project support for rocket launches worldwide and minor construction and renovation of various buildings at Wallops.

Global Surveyor's Orbit Raised

The lowest point of Mars Global Surveyor's aerobraking orbit has been raised temporarily, and aerobraking has been suspended while the flight team analyzes data to understand why one of the spacecraft's two solar panels, which had not fully deployed, exhibited unexpected motion during a recent dip through the upper Martian atmosphere.

The spacecraft's current 35-hour orbit around Mars, which was taking it down to 75 miles above the Martian surface during each of its closest passes over the planet, was raised Oct. 12 to 105 miles.

Preliminary data from the panel indicate that it has moved past what would have been its fully deployed and latched position. In addition, the panel has shown some movement, rather than maintaining its rigid position during aerobraking. These changes occurred during the spacecraft's fifteenth close approach to Mars, on Oct. 6, when the density of the Martian atmosphere doubled unexpectedly. The panel's performance has had no effect on spacecraft power.

A Reminder.....

**Daylight Saving Time ends
at 2 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 26.
Set clocks
back one hour.**

Wallops News Shorts

A high energy astrophysics payload was successfully flown on a four million cubic foot scientific balloon Oct. 15 from Ft. Sumner, NM. The University of California, San Diego, payload was recovered. The principal investigator was Dr. Jim Matteson.

A solar physics payload was successfully launched on a Black Brant IX sounding rocket Oct. 16 from the White Sands Missile Range, NM. The Naval Research Laboratory payload was recovered. The principal investigator was Dr. Daniel Moses from the Naval Research Laboratory and the payload manager was Frank Lau (Code 832).

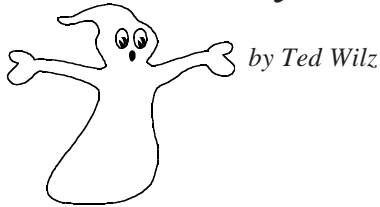
The OSC Pegasus launch vehicle carrying the Air Force STEP-4 satellite is scheduled for launch from Wallops no earlier than Oct. 22. The launch window extends from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.



Dave Pierce, Code 802, (right) describes the Code 800 educational programs to a visitor to the Wallops Flight Facility exhibit during the Education Showcase Oct. 16 at Greenbelt. The Wallops exhibit featured the educational flight opportunities for students and the outreach programs at the facility. The purpose of the Showcase was to highlight the many educational resources at Goddard to employees and educators from the northeastern United States.

PAO Digital Photo

Weather Summary



by Ted Wilz

As Summer turned to Fall, very pleasant weather continued. Temperatures during September were seasonal, averaging only .2 degrees Fahrenheit below normal. A brief cool spell just after Labor Day allowed new record low temperatures of 52 degrees on Sept. 4 and 50 degrees on Sept. 5. A brief warm spell ahead of a cold front on Sept. 20 set a new record high temperature when the mercury reached 91 degrees. Otherwise, temperatures remained just about average through September.

Rain, much to the farmer's and gardener's lament, continued to be scant throughout the area. Only 1.61 inches of rainfall were recorded during September. This is less than half of the 3.41 inch September average. Perhaps conditions will coincidentally reverse during October and November, the driest two month period of the year when rainfall averages less than 3 inches per month.

Temperatures during November should put an end to the late summer type days and bring much more fall like weather to the area. The earliest fall freeze on record at Wallops occurred Oct. 12, 1964. Freezes are much more common in November when low temperatures in the teens have been recorded as early as mid-November. High temperatures at the beginning of the month average in the low to mid-60s and decrease 10 degrees to the low to mid-50s by the end of the month. Low temperatures in early November average in the mid to upper 40s, but as December approaches should average in the mid-30s.

Temperature changes during one to two day periods can be quite extreme with frontal systems pushing further south into the region as winter approaches. It is not unusual to get a few flakes of the "dreaded white stuff". Be sure to plan accordingly and make any last minute home and auto preparations.

Football and fireplace weather will soon be here in earnest. The smell of turkey cooking can't be far behind.

For Sale

Murray lawn tractor, 12 HP, 40-inch cut, excellent condition. \$450. Call anytime (757) 665-4941.

Training Available

Designing Information for the Web

To be held at Goddard.

Nov. 12-13, 1997

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Directorate-funded

Cost: \$728-\$971

This computer lab course helps those responsible for the production of World Wide Web pages to analyze the needs of web audiences, build a user-focused navigation model for web information, organize and structure information on the web, and understand how web technology impacts information design. Note: This course does not cover HTML topics.

Oral Presentation Strategies

To be held at Wallops.

Nov. 12-14, 1997

8:30-4:30

Center-funded

This three-day experiential work shop is open to a maximum of 12 people whose duties include giving oral briefings and formal reports. The course builds effective public speaking skills and culminates in the videotaping of giving short, prepared presentations by participants. (A required course for PIPs.) Modules include:

- Researching and organizing of materials;
- Analyzing and adapting materials to diverse audiences;
- Dealing with stage fright;
- Arguing persuasively;
- Managing stance and posture; and
- Using visual aids effectively.

The 3 Habits of Highly Successful Communicators

To be held at Goddard.

Nov. 21, 1997

9 a.m. - noon

Directorate-funded

Cost: \$50-\$100

This workshop examines the interpersonal communication styles common to those people who seem to communicate well with everyone. Participants will learn the aspects of attitude, speaking and listening that promote clear communication and strong relationships.

For further information, contact Sherry Kleckner, X1204 or by Email: Sherry.W.Kleckner.1@gsfc.nasa.gov

Spaghetti Dinner

The Morale Activities Committee will hold a spaghetti dinner on Friday, Oct. 24 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in Building F-3. At \$5 per person, the dinner will consist of spaghetti, garlic bread, salad, dessert and iced tea.

Only 50 tickets will be sold. Contact Brenda Harrie, x1480, as soon as possible.

Thanks from the Health Unit

by Dianne Hargrove, R.N.

A big thank you to everyone who participated in the Sept. 19 American Red Cross Blood Drive. There were 35 blood donors, making this the best blood drive we have had. You did a great job. We appreciate everyone that gave their time and their blood. Hope to see all of you the next time. Come and bring a friend!



The Morale Activities Committee is planning a Halloween Party beginning at 5 p.m., Oct. 31.

Volunteers are needed to help pull the event together. If you have any suggestions for a fun evening or can spare some time to set up, contact Jan Neville, x1526 or by Email:

Junius.J.Neville.1@gsfc.nasa.gov

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